

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00196 091220Z

44

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UNCLAS MBFR VIENNA 0196

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: LAHODA APRIL 8 PRESS CONFERENCE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BEGIN SUMMARY: QS AND AS FOLLOWING LAHODA PRESS STATEMENT OF APRIL 8 (MBFR VIENNA 0191) WERE SPARSE. INTERESTINGLY, IF THEY HAD ANY FOCUS AT ALL IT WAS ON WESTERN DEC 16 NUCLEAR OFFER AND ON DATA, ISSUES THE ALLIES HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET ACROSS TO THE MEDIA. TONE OF OPTIMISM WHICH LAHODA HAD TRIED TO INJECT INTO HIS PRESS STATEMENT RECEIVED A SECOND AIRING IN THE RESPONSE TO THE FIRST QUESTION, THE ONLY ONE ASKED BY EASTERN MEDIA REPS PRESENT. TEXT OF QS AND AS FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY

BEGIN TEXT:

1. Q. (IZVESTIYA) THERE IS A PHRASE IN YOUR STATEMENT WHERE ITS SAYS THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE 8TH ROUND WERE USEFUL AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00196 091220Z

MUTUALLY FRUITFUL. COULD YOU SPECIFY THIS? HAVE YOU MOVED FORWARD

IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, HAVE YOU REACHED A POSITION FROM WHICH YOU CAN FRUITFULLY CONTINUE THESE TALKS HERE?

A. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SENTENCE IN THE FOLLOWING MATTER: DURING THSI ROUND WE HAVE HAD QUITE A NUMBER OF OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH SIDES, AND IN THE COURSE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS WE HAD WHAT WE CALL A FRUITFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. THIS CONCERNS AS WELL THE ELUCIDATION OF THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AN ELUCIDATION OF WHAT CONSISTENT ASPECTS OF COMPROMISE ARE CONTAINED IN THIS PROPOSAL AND IN WHAT A WAY OF MANNER THIS WHOLE PROPOSAL MAY CONSTITUTE A FURTHER BASIS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE DEBATES AND FOR THE ATTAINING OF MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT TO THIS EFFECT WE HAVE TO SOLVE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PROBLEMS, SUCH AS FOR INSTANCE THE PROBLEM OF DEFINITIONS WHICH I HAVE MENTIONED; WE CONSIDER THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THESE MATTERS, THAT IS FOR INSTANCE ON THE REPARTITION OF ARMED FORCES, THE DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER AS TO, WHAT SHOULD BE RELATED TO GROUND FORCES AND WHAT BELONGS TO AIR FORCES, WHICH IS A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER, AND WE HAD ALSO A VERY USEFUL DEBATE WHICH PERMITTED US FOR THE NEXT ROUND TO PURSUE THE CONCRETE DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER.

2.Q. (PRESSE) MR AMBASSADOR, I UNDERSTOOD FROM YOUR STATEMENT THAT THE EASTERN SIDE HAD MADE A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL, NAMELY THE TWO STAGES AND THAT THE U.S. AND SOVIET UNION WOULD BE THE ONLY ONES TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN THE FIRST STAGE. WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO CONFIRM THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL OF DEC 16, 1975, WAS A COMPROMISE AS WELL?

A. AS YOU SAID RIGHTLY, THE STEPS OF COMPROMISE CONTAINED IN OUR PROPOSAL HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH IN THE STATEMENT I HAVE MADE. WE HAVE AGREED IN THE COURSE OF THE PRESENT ROUND TO ANNOUNCE OURSELVES WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS CONTAINED IN THE WESTERN PROPOSAL OF DEC 16. ONE OF THESE POSITIVE ELEMENTS IS IN MY VIEW THE FACT THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME THE WEST HAS INCLUDED THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THEIR MEANS OF DELIVERY. EVEN THOUGH THIS HAS BEEN DONE IN A FAR INSUFFICIENT MANNER BECAUSE IT CONSTITUTES A ONE-TIME ACTION BY THE U.S. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MIXED PACKAGE, WE THINK THAT THIS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00196 091220Z

ELEMENT CONTAINED IN THE WESTERN PROPOSAL SHOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED, THAT IT SHOULD BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE WESTERN CONCEPT AS SUCH, SINCE IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ONE OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND WE THINK THAT IT IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT COMPONENT. THIS COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES SHOULD THEREFORE, AS THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN ASKING FOR, BE INCLUDED INTO THE PROCESS OF REDUCTIONS, NOT ONLY ON THE PART OF A SINGLE STATE, BUT

ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY BY ALL STATES WHICH POSSESS SUCH ARMS.

3.Q. (PRESSE) WHERE THERE ANY OTHER POSITIVE PARTS IN THE DEC 16 PROPOSAL?

A. IF YOU WISH TO KNOW ANOTHER PART OF THIS PARTIAL POSITIVE ELEMENT OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL, THAT IN MY VIEW IS THE FACT THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME AS WELL THE WEST SPEAKS NOT ONLY ABOUT MANPOWER, BUT ALSO ABOUT ARMAMENTS AS IS CONTAINED AS A MATTER OF FACT IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS. IN OUR VIEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THEIR MEANS OF DELIVERY ARE ARMAMENTS. (SUPPLEMENTARY Q. YOU JUST MENTIONED TWO ELEMENTS. IS THERE A THIRD ONE?) I THINK THAT IS SUFFICIENT. I DIDN'T MEAN SUFFICIENT IN THE SENSE THAT WE SHOULD BE CONTENTED AND THAT WE CONSIDER IT AS ENOUGH AS CONCERNS THIS CONFERENCE.

4.Q.(AUSTRIAN TV) DOES THIS MEAN THAT YOU HAVE SORT OF A PRIORITY LIST INDICATING THAT YOU WANT TO CONCENTRATE NOW ON TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE NEXT ROUND, EXCLUDING OTHER POINTS?

A. OUR CONCEPT IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON, THAT MEANS THAT REDUCTIONS SHOULD ENCOMPASS AT THE SAME TIME ALL COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES. THAT MEANS THE ARMED FORCES AS SUCH, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NAVAL FORCES, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN SET DOWN DURING THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE. THAT MEANS THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE COMPLEX, AND WE WOULD GIVE NO PRIORITY TO ANY ONE PART THAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER PARTS.

4.Q.(PRESSE) DID YOU SPEAK ABOUT FIGURES? DID THE EASTERN SIDE COME OUT WITH CONCRETE FIGURES, SUCH AS ON MANPOWER, ON ARMAMENTS. YOU SEEM TO BE SPEAKING ABOUT PERCENTAGES, AND NOT ABOUT FIGURES.
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 MBFR V 00196 091220Z

DID YOU COME OUT WITH OVERALL FIGURES?

A. WE THINK THAT NOT ONLY THE WEST BUT ALSO THE EAST CAME FORTH WITH CERTAIN DATA. WE OFFERED PRECISE FIGURES FOR EXAMPLE WHEN WE SPOKE ABOUT THE PROCESS OF REDUCTIONS WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, THE FIRST STAGE TO BE COMPLETED QCOIYE END OF 1976, AND THE SECOND BY 1978. IN THE SAME WAY WE HAVE PRESENTED DATA WHEN WE SPOKE ABOUT THE PERCENTAGE OF REDUCTIONS, WHEN WE SAID FOR INSTANCE THAT THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD REDUCE BY TWO OR THREE PERCENT IN THE FIRST YEAR FROM THE TOTAL OF THE RESPECTIVE FORCES OF ALL THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF BOTH ALLIANCES, NATO AND WARSAW TREATY. THAT MEANS THAT WE ON OUR SIDE HAVE ALSO MADE CERTAIN PROPOSALS AS FAR AS CONCRETE DATA ARE CONCERNED. AS TO YOUR QUESTION, IF I UNDERSTOOD YOU CORRECTLY, YOU HAVE BEEN

THINKING OF OTHER DATA, THAT IS THE AMOUNT AND THE QUANTITY
OF ARMED FORCES, WE THINK THAT THERE IS A TIME FOR EACH THING,
THAT WE SHOULD FIRST OF ALL AGREE ON PRINCIPLES, THAT WE MUST
KNOW WHAT WE ARE COMMITTING OURSELVES TO DO AND WHAT WE WANT
TO REACH AND OBTAIN. THIS CONCERNS ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO
THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND ONLY THEN CAN THERE BE A CONCRETE ANALYSIS
OF THE EFFECTS OF THIS ON THE ARMED FORCES. END TEXTRESOR

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